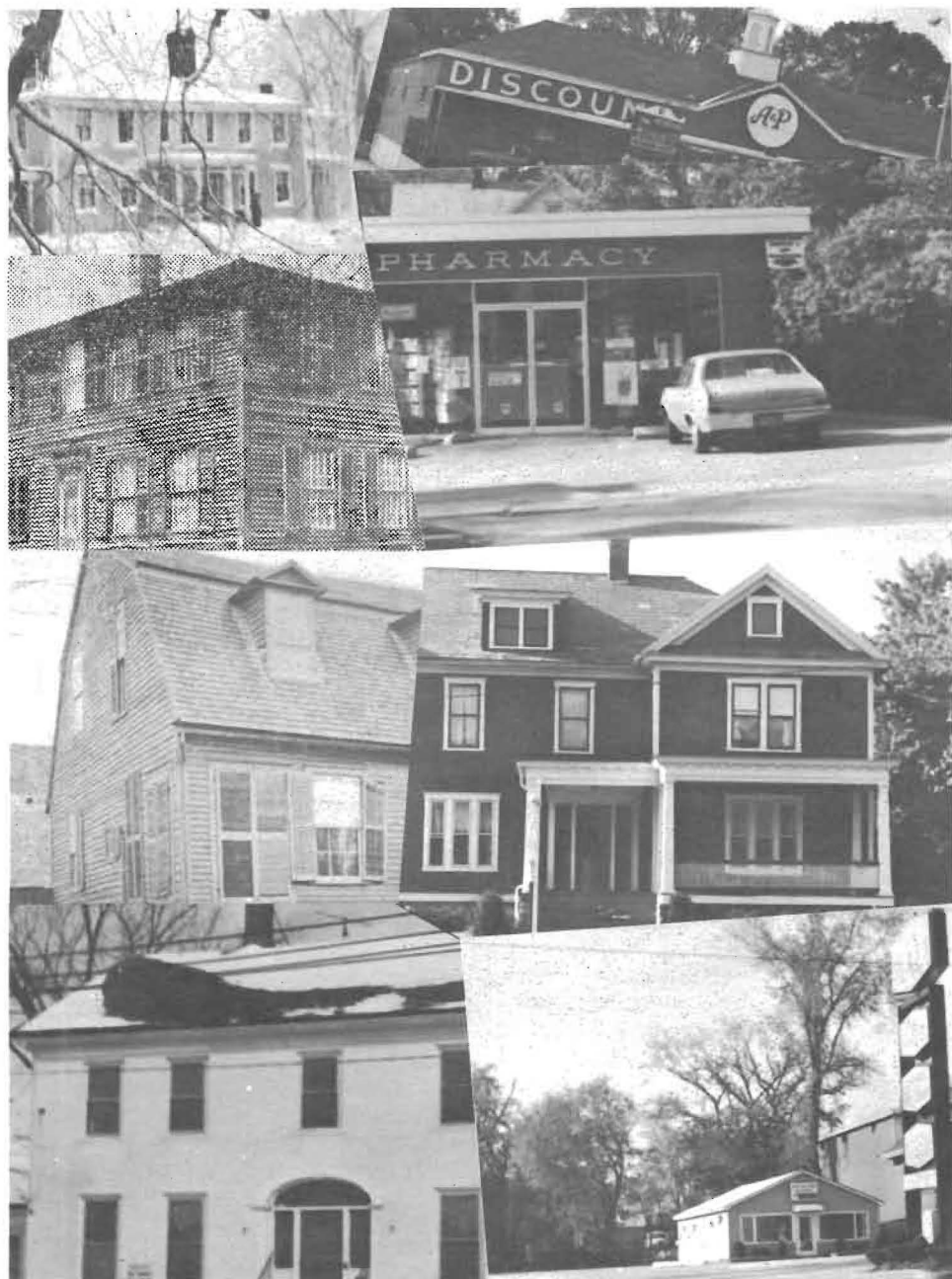


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

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One of the more difficult moving jobs in Rutland involved moving in March of 1929 the Samuel Curtis house, which for some forty years stood where the Montgomery Ward store now is, to its present location at the southwest corner of Park Avenue and Grove. All went well for contractor John Moran of Framingham, Mass. until a stately avenue of elms was encountered just south of the Williams Street corner. Fortunately, no trees were felled, but the house was neatly sliced into three sections. The main section is shown moving north with the side sections propped up in the gutters. The International truck of Fred Remington is parked at the right and his firm may have been a sub-contractor. Our thanks to Miss Mary Rustedt for allowing publication of this photo from the Dr. George Rustedt album.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Bookplates and early engravings of W. E. Hopson, gift of Merrybrook Foundation.

Scott's map of Vermont, dated 1854, gift of Mrs. R. V. Gregory.

Set of Freedom Medals, mint condition, gift of Mr. Frederick S. Chaffee.

From the dozens of books donated for the Society's Book Sale in April several have been placed in our research library. We are grateful to those who gave books and issue a call for more books. Second sale of books July 19, 20 and 21.

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The Cover: Four of Rutland's landmarks which were destroyed and their replacements. The question for all to ponder is: Are the needs of the present (and the future) really fulfilled by these "improvements"?

Book Review

Abby Hemenway's Vermont. Unique Portrait of a State. By Abby Maria Hemenway. Selected and Edited by Brenda C. Morrissey. Brattleboro: The Stephen Greene Press (1972). xi, 179 pp., illus., index. \$9.50.

That larder of indigestible gleanings, crammed into five sausage-like volumes in white-hot haste by the indomitable Miss Hemenway, has been strained, sifted and made appetizing for the modern reader by Brenda Morrissey, resulting in a tooth-some potpourri, with the bones, gristle and raw potatoes culled out.

Ms. Morrissey's concoction is strong on folk-lore and the apochryphal; well-seasoned with dry wit and humor, perhaps with the hope the public will ask for a second helping. This slim volume sits easily in the palm—which cannot be said of the original five volumes; it makes no pretense of supplying, as does the original, a well-balanced diet of historical fact.

Our members will be interested to know that Rutland receives even less space porportionately in this selection than is devoted to the town in Hemenway's *Gazetteer*, which is damned little. Aunt Abby garnered but 112 pages of material on Rutland in her third volume and one-third of that is a direct copy of Chauncey K. Williams' "Rutland Centennial." The remainder is a brief history of the railroad and the marble industry and brief biographical sketches. Ms. Morrissey devotes less than two pages to our town—a compilation by the Rev. Pliney H. White of some of the more caustic remarks of the Rev. Lemuel Haynes, pastor of the first church in town. If we can believe the barbs and shafts delivered by Haynes it is hard to understand how he could have lasted as minister in that one church for some thirty years.

Pound for pound the Morrissey book at \$9.50 is a better buy than the *Gazetteer*. They both average out at \$10.00 per pound but the Stephen Green Press book has been trimmed of the lard and bones.

F. P. E.

People from the Other World, by Henry S. Olcott. Rutland: Charles E. Tuttle Company (1972) 492pp. illus. \$8.25. [Reprint of 1875 edition].

This is not a book for everyone, for it is about the supernatural. It is reviewed in these pages because most of the seances are alleged to have taken place on the Eddy brothers homestead in Chittenden, the largest town in the State and Rutland's neighbor for some eighty-eight rods in the northeast corner of town.

During the 1870's Chittenden attracted believers and scoffers; the famous and the infamous—the most celebrated being the notorious Madame Blavatsky—and those gawkers who sought entertainment. Of diversions there were no end—spirit rappings, apparitions, voices from the past, mysterious handwriting—every possible stunt was paraded before the credulous and incredulous alike. The performances described by Olcott resemble grandiose vaudeville acts. What is the meaning of it all?

F. P. E.



... all around the town.



Some of the interesting buildings outside the city limits. How many can you identify? Comments and facts welcomed.





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Comment in Brief

Vermont's Universalist Controversy of 1824 by William Gribbin, VERMONT HISTORY, Spring 1973, pages 82-94.

Legislators in Montpelier care a whole lot less about who is the session's chaplain than the *Utica Western Recorder* did in 1824 and Professor William Gribbin now does down in Richmond, Virginia.

On a second ballot the solons selected a Unitarian over Methodist candidates by a vote of 96-93. Most historians familiar with Vermont would not be surprised by this decision, because Vermonters have always leaned toward rationalism and radicalism.

Doctor Gribbin makes no mention of Lemuel Haynes who in 1805 engaged in polemics with Hosea Ballou, the architect of the theological structure of Universalism. The controversy elevated Haynes to recognition as a major theological polemist. His sermon on "Universal Salvation" in various editions and with various annotations was published and republished with estimated circulations of 20,000. By 1824 Ballou had become pastor of the Second Universalist Society in Boston (1818-1852) and editor of the *Universalist Magazine* (1819-1828). After the encounter of Haynes and Ballou the Universalist controversy was old stuff.

—Paul Douglass

Former Senator from Rutland County, retired president of American University, now farmer-lawyer in South Granville, N. Y., (last parish of Lemuel Haynes) Mr. Douglass is foremost authority on Haynes, unique Vermonter and American.

Report of the Committee to Revise the By-laws

A committee comprising the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, and the President of the Society submit officially, in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of the Society, the following for the members' consideration at the annual meeting on October 24 next:

Article III, Section 2, Paragraph 4 shall read as follows: "The treasurer shall have custody of all cash funds of the Society and shall maintain the Society's financial records. He shall deposit the Society's cash receipts in bank accounts approved by the Board of Directors. Withdrawals from the Society's bank accounts shall be on the treasurer's signature and, except for transfers between bank accounts, shall be on orders or invoices approved by another officer. The treasurer's accounts shall be examined, at the close of each fiscal year ending June 30, by a Certified Public Accountant chosen by the Board of Directors."

These changes will: 1. eliminate the unnecessary signature on checks of the president; 2. change the close of the fiscal year from December 31 to June 30, making our fiscal year coincide with that of the City; 3. provide for an audit of the Society's funds. Dues will continue to be payable on September 30. Your committee recommends the approval of these changes.

One change the Committee considered but did not recommend was an increase in the annual dues. A Society is blessed indeed if members pay \$2.00 each year and also contribute time and effort. Those members who, for one reason or another, contribute neither time nor services, but who wish to help the Society are urged to become contributing or sustaining members.



Ten P.M., November 11, 1913. The beginning of the end.

All five stories of the Company store (three stories above ground, two below) burn intensely an hour or so after the fire was reported. The next day, according to the Herald, manager C. J. Mason set up a temporary store in the old library (now the town clerk's office) and within a year construction of a brick store (still standing) was under way. Already in 1913 the people of Sutherland Falls owned autos and by the end of World War One the cheapness of the Model T and the improvement of roads made shopping trips to other towns possible. In 1913 most residents of Proctor worked for the Company; today, due to this mobility, a guess is that one-half of the residents work in other towns. The domination of the town—and the store—was already ebbing when the store burned.

Photo: Collection of Edwin A. Larson

.....
... toward a Glossary, or Gazetteer, of Rutland Place Names.

We append below a list of names of locations in Rutland which we picked up during the course of the past few months. Some of the terms are today considered derogatory but were used freely in a less hypocritical time. May we have some feed-back on these names? Too often we accept the meaning of a term for granted. After which Whipple for example, was Whipple Hollow named?

Blueberry Hill
 Boardman Hill
 The Butter Tub (a house)
 Cheney Hill
 Curtis Flats
 Frenier's Falls
 The Glen
 Gouger Hill
 Jew's Corner

Nebraska
 Nigger Hill
 Pine Hill
 Rebel Hill
 Reynold's Mill
 Rutland Valley
 Sheepskin
 Smith's Corners
 Tan-Yard Village
 Whipple Hollow



Last summer we had nothing available to publish in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of our neighbor, [John] Calvin Coolidge. During the winter we discovered this snapshot in a photo album in the possession of Miss Mary Rustedt with whose permission we publish this as our small contribution to the observance of the 100th anniversary of his first birthday. This snap candidly shows that the President could be a charmer among friends.

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